

Hunter College Office of Research Administration Information Alert

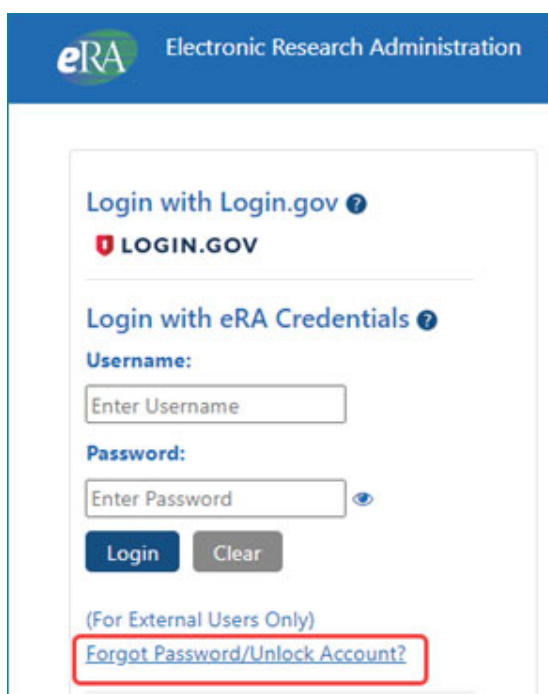
NOVEMBER 2021
ALERT #53

ERA REMINDER: PASSWORD MOVING TO PASSPHRASE FOR ERA COMMONS USERS STARTING NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Effective November 17, 2021, users of eRA Commons (including Commons Mobile, ASSIST, and IAR) who change their passwords will be required to use a passphrase — a set of random words or a sentence at least 15 characters long — instead of a password. The change is designed to make passwords easy for users to remember but hard for others to guess. We previously communicated this change in a [Nexus article](#) and in targeted messages.

Even though eRA is moving to use of two-factor authentication ([Login.gov](#) or [InCommon Federated Account](#)), users still need to maintain their eRA Commons username and password/passphrase and will get reminders to reset the password annually. With this move, users will need to change their passphrase only once a year (as opposed to the current NIH policy that requires passwords to be changed every 120 days).

eRA users can reset their password by clicking the **Forgot Password/Unlock Account** link on the eRA Commons Login screen; see Figure 1. This link brings up the Reset Password screen where users enter their eRA Commons user ID and email associated with their eRA account.



The screenshot shows the eRA Commons login interface. At the top, the eRA logo and 'Electronic Research Administration' are displayed. Below this, there are two primary login paths: 'Login with Login.gov' and 'Login with eRA Credentials'. The 'Login with eRA Credentials' section contains a 'Username:' label with an input field 'Enter Username', a 'Password:' label with an input field 'Enter Password' and an eye icon, and 'Login' and 'Clear' buttons. At the bottom of the page, there is a link '(For External Users Only) Forgot Password/Unlock Account?' which is highlighted with a red rectangular box.

Figure 1: Forgot Password/Unlock Account link on eRA Commons Login screen.

Users then receive an email with a temporary password. Upon eRA Commons login with the temporary password, which can be copied from the email and pasted into eRA Commons screens, the Change Password screen appears; see Figure 2. They might also be forwarded to this screen if logging into a new account or if their administrator has reset their password.

ALERT

WHY THIS ALERT?

This publication has been created to serve the purpose of informing researchers of new information, trends and concerns as they occur.



eRA Electronic Research Administration
A program of the National Institutes of Health

Change Password

INFORMATION!

- The password length must be between 15-64 characters
- Cannot re-use previous 10 generations of passwords
- Allows user selection of long passwords and passphrases, including spaces and all printable characters

Current Password:
.....

New Password:
.....

Confirm New Password:
.

Submit Clear

Password Validation Results

- ✔ The password length must be between 15-64 characters
- ✘ Confirm New Password should be the same as New Password

Figure 2: eRA Commons Change Password screen.

When the validation messages on the right indicate that password requirements have been met, the user clicks the **Submit** button to change the password.

After November 17, if eRA Commons users reset their passwords for any reason, they should keep the following password requirements in mind:

- Password length is 15 characters minimum.
- Password can be phrases including spaces and all printable characters, but special characters are not required.
- Going forward, passwords must be reset less frequently, only once per year.
- The password is case sensitive and cannot be reused within 10 passphrase cycles.

Please look for updated content and an updated eRA password policy document on **November 17** on the [Change Password](#) page of the eRA website.

Reminder

For more information on these changes please refer to
<https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2021/10/07/replace-era-commons-password-with-passphrase-starting-sometime-in-november/>